

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON  
APPROVED BY PM:LGELB  
EUR:JGOODBY  
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ACDA:JNEWHOUSE  
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S E C R E T STATE 081569 TOSEC 030075

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NPG, NATO

SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION - DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE  
TO BREZHNEV

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE LETTER THE PRESIDENT MAY WANT TO SEND TO BREZHNEV TO INFORM HIM IN ADVANCE OF THE ERW DECISION. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM WRITING TO INFORM YOU THAT, AFTER CAREFUL REFLECTION AND FOLLOWING CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIONS ALLIED TO MINE, I HAVE DECIDED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PROCEED WITH PRODUCTION OF THE REDUCED BLAST/

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ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD. A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WILL BE MADE SHORTLY.

I WANT TO MENTION SOME OF THE FACTORS UNDERLYING MY DECISION. AS YOU ARE AWARE, MY ADMINISTRATION FROM THE OUTSET HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO REACHING EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS. AS AN EXPRESSION OF THIS COMMIT-

MENT WE HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC INITIATIVES--AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH THE US AND USSR ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED. AT THE SAME TIME, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOSTER A GENERAL CLIMATE PROPITIOUS TO ARMS CONTROL AND CONDUCTIVE TO MUTUAL RESTRAINT. IN TAKING THE DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH PRODUCTION OF ERW, I HAVE ACTED PARTLY IN THE BELIEF THAT A STEP OF RESTRAINT BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A FAVORABLE CLIMATE AND OPEN THE WAY TO EQUIVALENT ACTS OF SIGNIFICANT RESTRAINT BY OTHERS, INCLUDING, AS I HOPE, THE SOVIET UNION. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN BY ME PERSONALLY, AFTER LONG AND CAREFUL REFLECTION. FRANKLY, IT WAS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WHICH SPREAD FUNDAMENTAL MISPERCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF AND POTENTIAL ROLE OF THE ERW. I HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT MY DECISION NOT TO PRODUCE THIS WEAPON WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS GIVING WAY TO PROPAGANDA PRESSURE.

MY DECISION WAS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY DISTURBING MILITARY TRENDS IN EUROPE, IN PARTICULAR THE LARGE AND CONTINUALLY IMPROVING ARMORED FORCES OF THE WARSAW PACT WHICH POSSESS A SIGNIFICANT OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY, AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF A NEW AND MORE VERSATILE MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO THREATEN THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN EUROPE.

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I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A CONTINUED BUILD-UP OF FORCES IS THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY HOPE THAT AT THIS TIME THE SOVIET UNION WILL RESPOND TO THE SPIRIT OF MY DECISION BY TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN EUROPE. IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT I AM WRITING YOU TO COMMUNICATE MY DECISION IN ADVANCE. END TEXT

WE ARE SENDING THIS MESSAGE SIMULTANEOUSLY TO HAROLD BROWN AND DAVID AARON AND WILL SEND THEIR COMMENTS TO YOU IMMEDIATELY. THE NSC HAS NOT SEEN THE TEXT AND HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF THE IDEA OF SUCH A COMMUNICATION TO BREZHNEV. GELB ALSO HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR SUCH A COMMUNICATION. SHULMAN THINKS IT NEEDS TO BE SENT. OPTION IS SUBMITTED FOR PARTIES' CONSIDERATION. COOPER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, ALLIANCE, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CAT-B  
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**Draft Date:** 30 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Drafter:** MGARRISON  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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